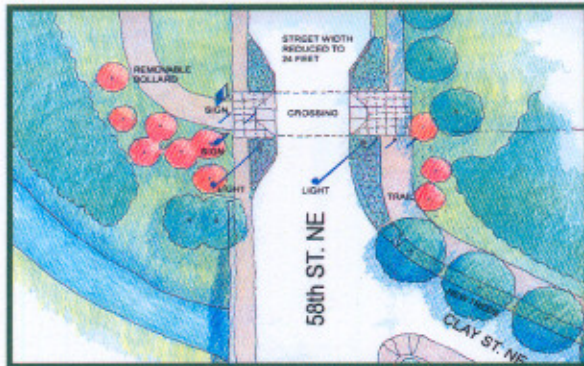


Marvin Gaye Park Trail Rehabilitation

Fact Sheet

The trail in Watts Branch Park (now Marvin Gaye Park) was first constructed in 1978, based on a plan developed by community residents. At 1.6 miles, it is the longest city-managed trail in the District. The Watts Branch corridor has always been important to the District's transportation network. One of the early electric streetcar lines ran along Nannie Helen Burroughs Avenue, and the Chesapeake Beach rail line originated at the eastern end of the park. Over the years, the trail has fallen into disrepair. In 1997, the non-profit group Washington Parks and People began working with nearby neighborhoods to revitalize the park and trail, holding volunteer cleanups and social events. In 2001, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) identified the Watts Branch Trail for improvements under the National Recreational Trails program of the Federal Highway Administration. Design of the trail improvements began in 2003.



Streets will be narrowed at trail crossings to improve safety and calm traffic.

Trail Rehabilitation

There are several components to the trail improvement project:

- Reconstructing and resurfacing the trail where necessary.
- Adding 2 new bridges (one at Grant Street and one near Minnesota Avenue).
- Replacing bridge railings along the existing bridges to make them safer and more attractive.
- Widening the entire trail from 8 to 10 feet, the new standard in trail design
- Narrowing the street at certain trail crossings to increase safety and highlight the trail entrances
- Installing new Shepherd's-crook style lights along the entire trail
- Removing unnecessary pavement and replacing it with grass.

The \$3.1 million construction project will begin in July of 2006 and last approximately one year. DDOT will manage the project, which is funded by a combination of local and federal dollars. In addition to the trail work, the Department of Parks and Recreation is partnering with the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation to build two playgrounds and other park amenities.



New lights will be placed along the entire trail.



Two new trail bridges will be constructed and new railings will be added to existing bridges.

Trail Network

The Marvin Gaye Park Trail is part of a city-wide trail system. It will connect with the Anacostia Riverwalk, which is also under construction this summer, and with the Fort Circle Trail, a route linking all of Washington's Civil War forts. The trail is also accessible to two Metro stations: Minnesota Avenue to the west and Capitol Heights to the east. The trail serves the immediate neighborhoods of Deanwood, Northeast Boundary, Burrville, Lincoln Heights and Grant Park. This area has one of the highest concentrations of children in the city. There are six schools within one-quarter mile of the trail. Other efforts to revitalize the area include the Great Streets initiative on Nannie Helen Burroughs Avenue (new lights, sidewalks and trees), and real estate developments at Capitol Gateway and Lincoln Heights.